MARVEL
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STRACZYNSKI
DEODATO JR
BROOKS
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN
SKIN DEEP
PART 3 of 4
ISANOVE

SKIN DEEP PART THREE

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Got to be careful...between the chemicals in the skinsuit, and the fact that Charlie was never exactly that stable in the first place, this could go very bad, very fast.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE POLICE FROM ASSOCIATING YOU WITH THE EXPLOSION AT THE LAB IS TO GET THAT SKINSUIT OFF...BUT THAT REQUIRES RESOURCES AND MONEY WE DON'T HAVE--
NO, YOU'RE WRONG.
I SAID I CAN'T ACCESS MY ACCOUNTS, NOT IN THE AMOUNTS I NEED, LOOKING LIKE THIS. BUT IT'LL TAKE THEM AT LEAST A DAY TO FREEZE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE MONEY FROM STARK INDUSTRIES, AND WE CAN GET THE MONEY OUT BEFORE THEM.
THAT IS, YOU CAN GET IT OUT.
I'LL GO BY MY PLACE, SEE IF I CAN GET TO MY CHECKS. I'LL WRITE ONE OUT TO YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S LEFT. I'LL MEET YOU AT THE UNITED BANK ON THIRD IN TWO HOURS, THEN WAIT WHILE YOU GO IN AND CASH IT.
CHARLIE, THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY, I--
I KNOW.
SO LIKE I SAID, I'LL BE THERE, WATCHING. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, IF YOU TRY ANYTHING...IT'S NOT JUST YOU THAT'LL PAY THE PRICE. IT'S EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING YOU LOVE.
SEE, THAT'S THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. YOU GOT LUCKY. YOU HAD FAMILY, AND FRIENDS, AND YOU GOT MJ AND...AND YOU HAD EVERY BREAK I NEVER HAD.
WELL, NOW THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE. YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME MY BREAK. I SUFFERED FOR IT AND I'M ENTITLED TO IT. SO DON'T SCREW IT UP.
Did I actually think that this COULD go very bad, very fast?
COULD implies the future tense.
This is ALREADY real bad.

I should've KNOWN this was going to happen. Friend or not, guilt over the past or not, I should've known better.
When am I going to learn to listen to the fairy godmother voice in the back of my head that tells me when I'm about to do something massively stupid?
YOU SEE, PETER, THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THOSE WHO LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO, AND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE IN THE FUTURE...AND THOSE WHO LOOK TO THE PAST FOR REASONS WHY THEY CAN'T BE ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT THEY ARE.
THEY BLAME EVERYONE ELSE FOR THEIR MISTAKES, AND SO THEY CAN NEVER MOVE FORWARD.
SO IF SOMEBODY LIKE THAT COMES ASKING FOR A FAVOR...TELL 'EM TO DROP DEAD.
NOW PUT DOWN THAT GLASS SLIPPER, GO OUT THERE AND GET ME SOME PICTURES OF THE ROYAL BALL.
Okay, that settles it. I am in need of some serious, serious counseling.

"SORRY, PAL, YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE."
SEVEN DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
CATS ALWAYS LIE
A NEW PLAY BY FETTES GREY

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY--
IS IT? BECAUSE I DON'T HEAR ANY POLICE SIRENS, AMBULANCES OR FIRE TRUCKS...AND *THAT'S* WHAT I'D SAY IS AN EMERGENCY.
LOOK--
HAS *ANYONE* BEEN INJURED OR KILLED, PAL?

NOT--
--YET.
THEN I CAN'T HELP YOU.

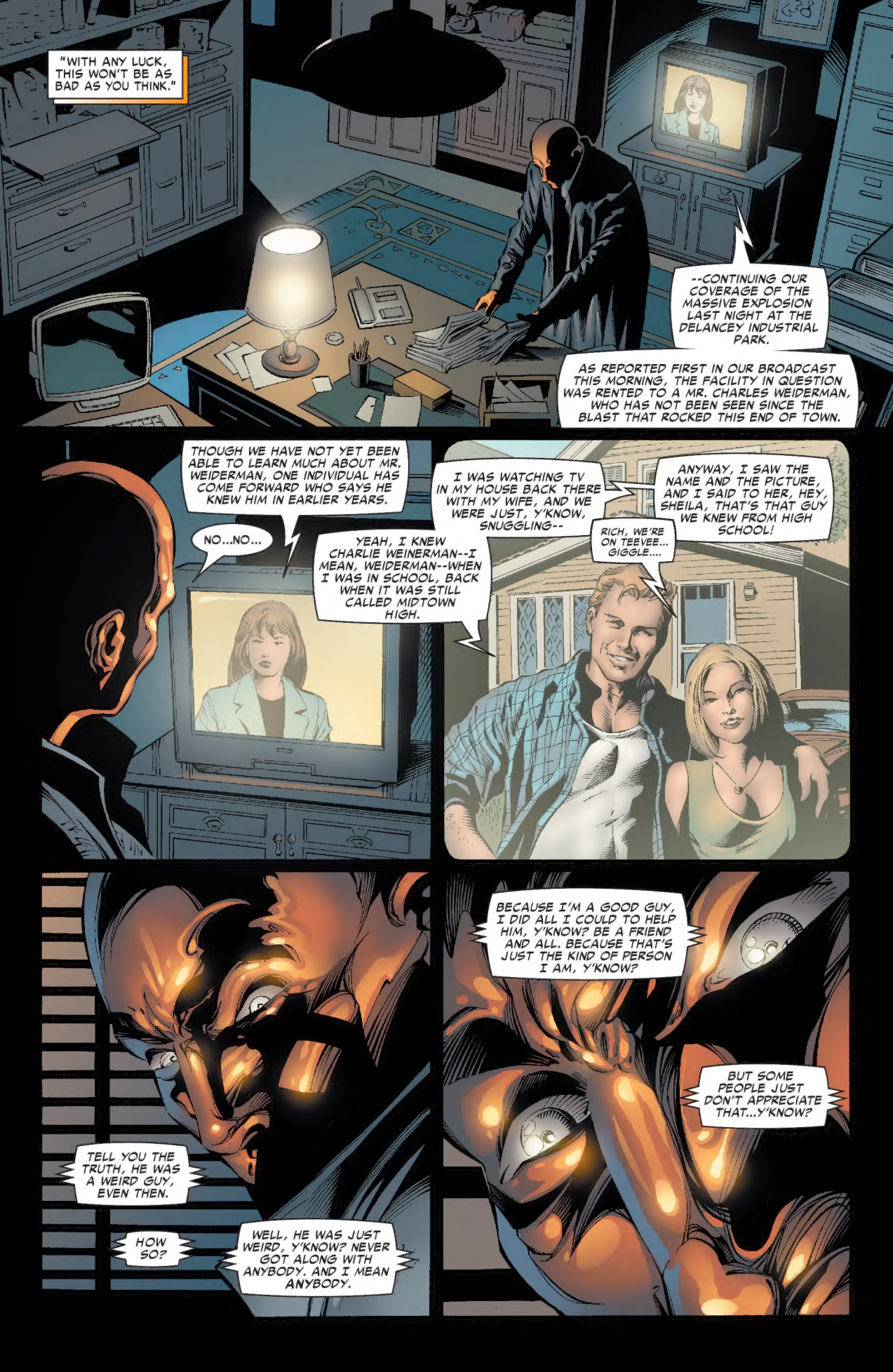
YOU SEE THAT RED BULB? THAT TELLS ME WHEN THEY'RE READY TO TAKE AN ACT BREAK ON THE DRESS REHEARSAL. UNTIL THEN, NOBODY WALKS INSIDE. DIRECTOR'S ORDERS.
AND HOW LONG UNTIL THE ACT BREAK?

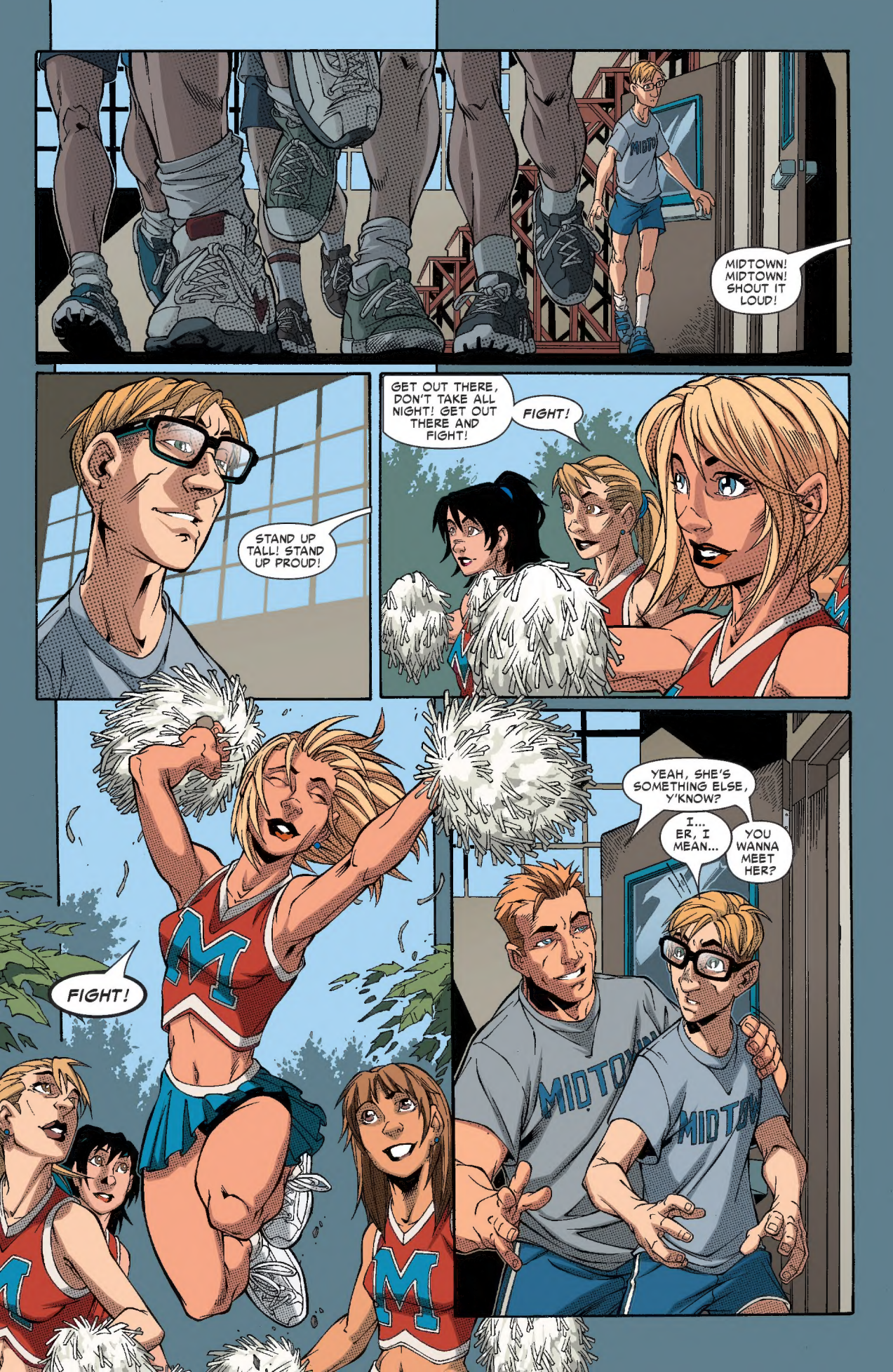
...FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE...

NOW. YES, IT WAS JUST TEN SECONDS, BUT AS MICHELANGELO SAID, "TRIFLES MAKE PERFECTION, AND PERFECTION IS NO TRIFLE." APRÈS VOUS.
BIG CHIN, SON OF A--
WHAT WAS THAT, SIR?
NOTHING, I JUST COUGHED.

OKAY, AND THAT'S CURTAIN, AND WE'LL BREAK FOR FIVE. STEVEN, I NEED TO SEE YOU FOR A SECOND--
I KNOW, I KNOW, I BLEW MY CUE, I'M SORRY--
...PETER?
PETER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO. LISTEN, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU, I--
DOESN'T THAT GET KIND OF DRAFTY?
PETER, IT'S A BEDROOM FARCE.
MJ, I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THAT IN OUR BEDROOM.
NOT THAT I WOULDN'T MIND, BUT--
PETER...
RIGHT, RIGHT...

LISTEN...WHEN YOU'RE DONE HERE, I WANT YOU TO SWING BY AND GET AUNT MAY, AND CHECK BOTH OF YOU INTO A HOTEL.
WHY?
THINGS WITH CHARLIE HAVE GONE SOUTH IN A BIG WAY. I THINK I CAN TURN IT AROUND, BUT THE THING IS, HE KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE, HE KNOWS WHERE MAY LIVES, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY IF THINGS BLOW UP.
"PETER, IS THIS THE SAME CHARLIE WEIDERMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT? I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS THE BIGGEST GEEK SINCE--
"--WELL, SINCE YOU."
EMERGENCY
9-1-1
"HE WAS, MJ. BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT SOMETIMES THINGS CHANGE.
"AND WHEN THEY CHANGE, THEY CHANGE FAST...
"...AND NOT ALWAYS FOR THE BETTER."
MJ...
RIGHT--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, PETER...YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO. WE'LL BE FINE.

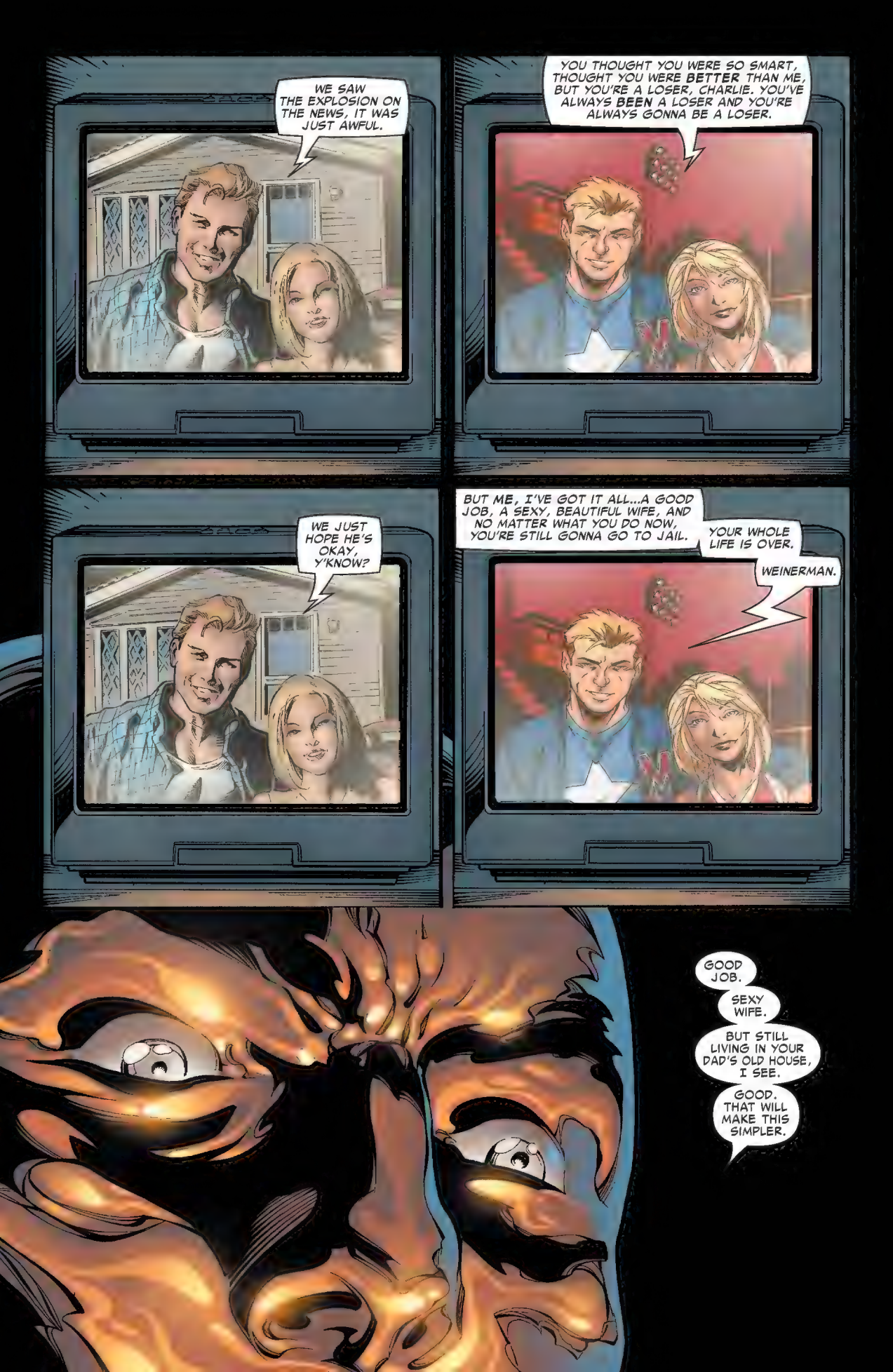

"WITH ANY LUCK, THIS WON'T BE AS BAD AS YOU THINK."
--CONTINUING OUR COVERAGE OF THE MASSIVE EXPLOSION LAST NIGHT AT THE DELANCEY INDUSTRIAL PARK.
AS REPORTED FIRST IN OUR BROADCAST THIS MORNING, THE FACILITY IN QUESTION WAS RENTED TO A MR. CHARLES WEIDERMAN, WHO HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE BLAST THAT ROCKED THIS END OF TOWN.
THOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO LEARN MUCH ABOUT MR. WEIDERMAN, ONE INDIVIDUAL HAS COME FORWARD WHO SAYS HE KNEW HIM IN EARLIER YEARS.
NO...NO...
YEAH, I KNEW CHARLIE WEINERMAN--I MEAN, WEIDERMAN--WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, BACK WHEN IT WAS STILL CALLED MIDTOWN HIGH.
I WAS WATCHING TV IN MY HOUSE BACK THERE WITH MY WIFE, AND WE WERE JUST, Y'KNOW, SNUGGLING--
RICH, WE'RE ON TEEVEE... GIGGLE....
ANYWAY, I SAW THE NAME AND THE PICTURE, AND I SAID TO HER, HEY, SHEILA, THAT'S THAT GUY WE KNEW FROM HIGH SCHOOL!
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HE WAS A WEIRD GUY, EVEN THEN.
HOW SO?
WELL, HE WAS JUST WEIRD, Y'KNOW? NEVER GOT ALONG WITH ANYBODY. AND I MEAN ANYBODY.
BECAUSE I'M A GOOD GUY, I DID ALL I COULD TO HELP HIM, Y'KNOW? BE A FRIEND AND ALL. BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF PERSON I AM, Y'KNOW?
BUT SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T APPRECIATE THAT...Y'KNOW?


MIDTOWN! MIDTOWN! SHOUT IT LOUD!
STAND UP TALL! STAND UP PROUD!
GET OUT THERE, DON'T TAKE ALL NIGHT! GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
YEAH, SHE'S SOMETHING ELSE, Y'KNOW?
I... ER, I MEAN...
YOU WANNA MEET HER?

NO, I...THAT IS, I SHOULDN'T REALLY--
HEY, NO THANKS NECESSARY. I'VE BEEN KINDA HARD ON YOU, SO THIS IS THE LEAST I CAN DO TO MAKE UP FOR IT, RIGHT?
WELL, I--
EXACTLY.
HEY, SHEILA, I WANT YOU TO MEET YOUR BIGGEST FAN.
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, I--
MY BIGGEST FAN? AWWW, THAT'S SO SWEET.
SO WHICH OF MY MOVES DID YOU LIKE THE BEST?
WELL, I...ALL OF THEM, YOU WERE GREAT. I MEAN, REALLY GREAT? YOU'RE--
WHAT? I'M WHAT?
YOU'RE... I MEAN...
I THINK YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
YOU THINK I--
OH, THAT'S SO SWEET. DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL? BECAUSE... WELL, IT'S JUST SUCH A COINCIDENCE, SEE--

--BECAUSE MY BOYFRIEND THINKS I'M BEAUTIFUL TOO.
WHOOO! GO, SHEILA! WOO-HOO!
HEY...DID I SAY YOU COULD LEAVE?
GOTTA GET SHEILA A SOUVENIR FROM HER BIGGEST FAN.
HEY! LET GO! LET GO!
NO... NO!
OH, PERFECT!
FOR THE COLLECTION.

AH-HAA! WHOOOOOO! HOW ROMANTIC! LOOK, IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA! WHEEEEOOOO!
LOVE ME?
ALWAYS.
REMEMBER ME?
"ALWAYS."


WE SAW THE EXPLOSION ON THE NEWS, IT WAS JUST AWFUL.
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SMART, THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN ME, BUT YOU'RE A LOSER, CHARLIE. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LOSER AND YOU'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE A LOSER.
WE JUST HOPE HE'S OKAY, Y'KNOW?
BUT ME, I'VE GOT IT ALL...A GOOD JOB, A SEXY, BEAUTIFUL WIFE, AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO NOW, YOU'RE STILL GONNA GO TO JAIL.
YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS OVER.
WEINERMAN.
GOOD JOB.
SEXY WIFE.
BUT STILL LIVING IN YOUR DAD'S OLD HOUSE, I SEE.
GOOD. THAT WILL MAKE THIS SIMPLER.

HONEY? THERE'S SOME MORE REPORTERS DOWNSTAIRS WHO WANT TO SEE YOU.
BE RIGHT THERE...JUST GOTTA LOOK GOOD FOR THE CAMERAS.
STRIKE WHILE THE TV IRON IS HOT, RIGHT?
RIGHT!
SHEILA? WHERE'S MY PANTS?
WHAT?
I SAID WHERE'S MY PANTS, I--
FUNNY...I ASKED THAT VERY SAME QUESTION, ONCE UPON A TIME.
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS AWFULLY FUNNY.
DO YOU STILL THINK IT'S FUNNY?
+GUCCCCH!+

SINCE YOU NEVER PAID ATTENTION IN SCIENCE CLASS... EXCEPT TO COPY FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S TESTS...LET ME GIVE YOU A FREE AFTER-CLASS LESSON.
WHAM!

VIBRANIUM CAN ABSORB THE SOUND OF AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION AND TURN IT INTO A WHISPER.
OR, PROPERLY ATTUNED, IT CAN VIBRATE AT A FREQUENCY THAT CAN SHATTER LEAD AND SPLIT DIAMONDS.

SO I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT IT COULD DO TO HUMAN FLESH AND BONE. AND I NEED A TEST SPECIMEN.
SATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION WILL BE HALF YOUR GRADE, SO PAY ATTENTION.

NO...NO... NOOO!

AAAAAAAA!!!!GHHH!
Where is he?

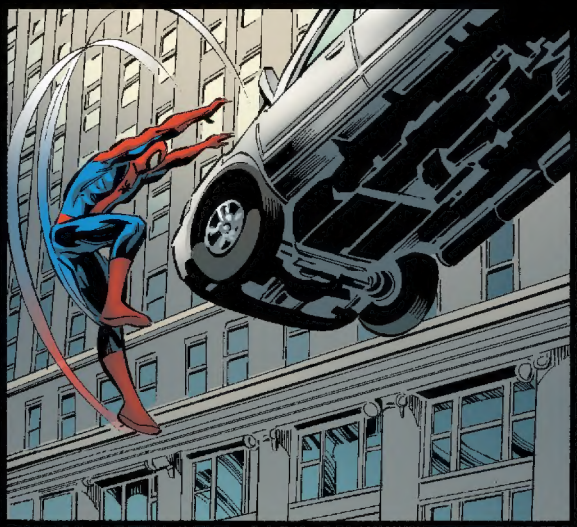
Charlie should have shown up by now, but there's not a trace of--
Good old spidey-sense... now where is he? Where --
Bingo.
Now all I need is a justification to go down there and get involved.
Fortunately, in his current condition, that won't be hard.
Sorry, Charlie.
WHAT THE--DAMNED WIND!
EEEE!

IT'S THE GUY THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
RUN!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, PAL.
Have to be careful, can't say or do anything that would make him look or listen too carefully.
He's getting more and more deranged from the stress and the skinsuit, but he's still smart, and that makes him deadly... and dangerous to my identity.
LOOK, BUDDY, WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT. I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED, AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT YOU--
NO ONE HURTS ME! NO ONE!
OBOY...

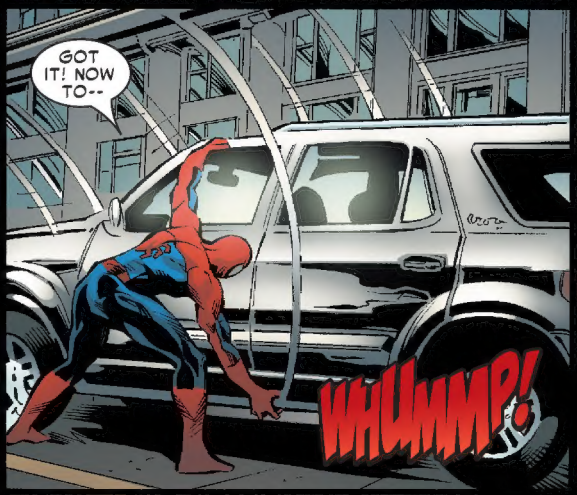
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU STOP ME! I WON'T!
He's stronger than I expected, and he seems to get stronger the madder he gets.
Great, the last thing I needed... Hulk Lite.
Webs are the best chance I have to capture him without hurting him.
YOU KNOW, ON ONE LEVEL, I'M LOVING THE SUIT, BUT IT JUST SCREAMS OUT FOR SOME ACCESSORIZING.
AND HAVING JUST COME FROM THERE, I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WEBS ARE ALL THE RAGE IN PARIS THESE DAYS.
Got him! Now maybe that'll--
--nuts, the coat took most of it. Well, just have to try again and--
SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #23! ON SALE NOW, TRUE BELIEVER!

Oh my God...
...he's covered in blood! Did I hurt him or--
No. No, I didn't.
That's not his blood.
CHARLIE...? CHARLIE, WHAT DID YOU--
HOW DID YOU...HOW DID YOU KNOW MY--
WAIT--
THAT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME!
Oh, no...
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...
PARKER! PARKER!
HE TOLD YOU I WOULD BE HERE, DIDN'T HE? WARNED YOU.
Whew...okay, so far so good... sorta.
I KNEW HE COULDN'T BE TRUSTED! I KNEW IT!
HE'LL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH NOW, JUST LIKE THE REST.
Okay, NOT so good.

Have to wrap him-- and this-- up fast.
IF YOU THINK THAT CAN STICK TO A SUBSTANCE CAPABLE OF VIBRATING AT MILLIONS OF OSCILLATIONS PER SECOND--
--THEN YOU'RE NOT NEARLY AS SMART AS I'D HEARD. NOW IT'S MY TURN, AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
I THINK I'M STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.
NO...NO!
NO!
Have to time this just right!
LOOK OUT! RUN!

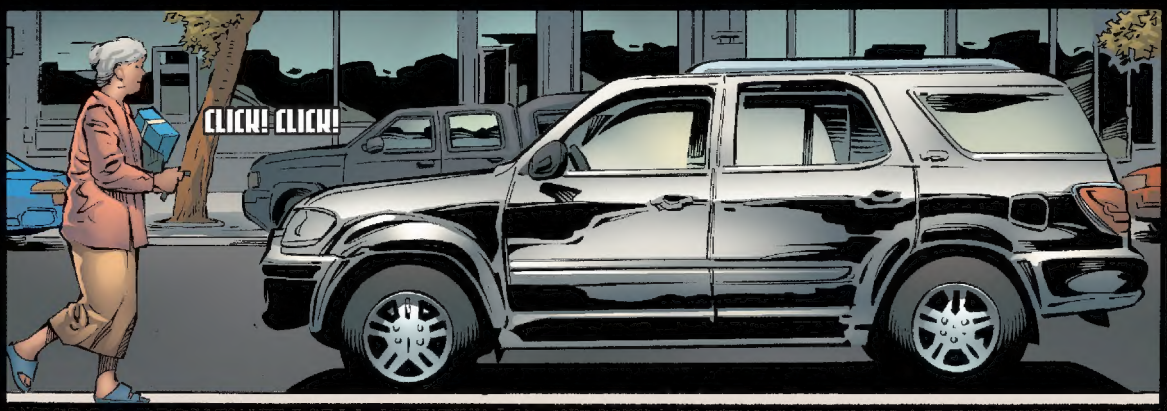


UHHNNNNH!
I KNEW... THERE WAS A REASON...I DON'T LIKE SUVS...


GOT IT! NOW TO--
WHUMMP!

--NUTS.

Have to pick up his trail, fast, before anybody else gets hurt.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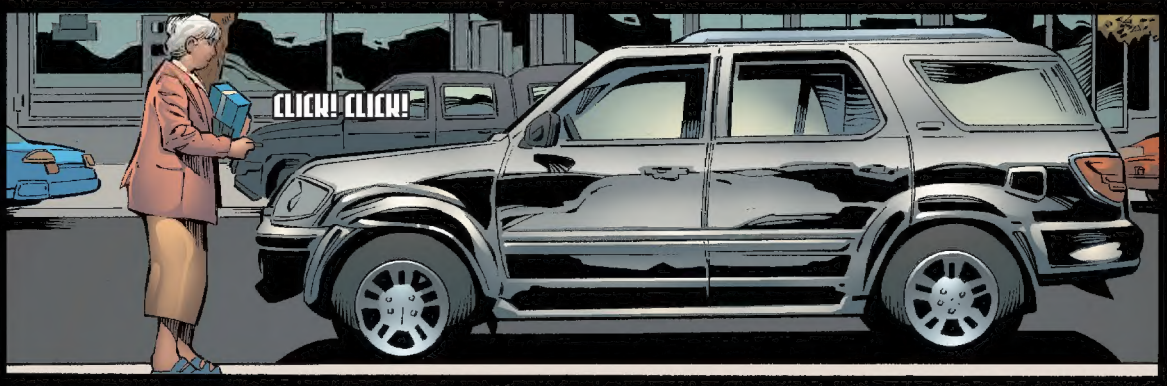
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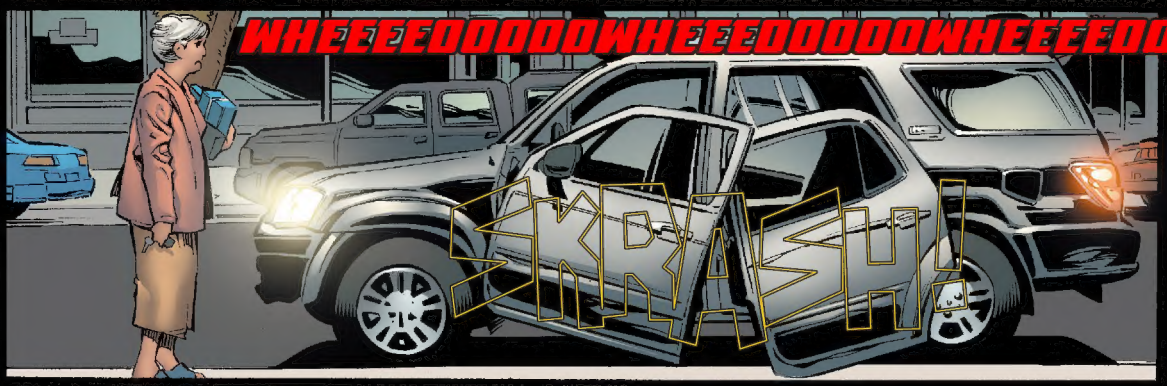
WHEEEEOOOOOWHEEEOOOOOWHEEEEOOO
KRASH!

I TOLD PARKER... I WARNED HIM. BUT HE DIDN'T LISTEN.

PARKER

I TOLD HIM THAT IF HE BETRAYED ME AGAIN, I WOULD DESTROY EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING HE LOVES.
NOW HE HAS TO UNDERSTAND--

--I NEVER, EVER BLUFF.
AUNT MAY? YOU THERE? IT'S CHARLIE. PETER'S FRIEND.
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW LITTLE HE THINKS YOUR LIFE IS WORTH.
To be continued...